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BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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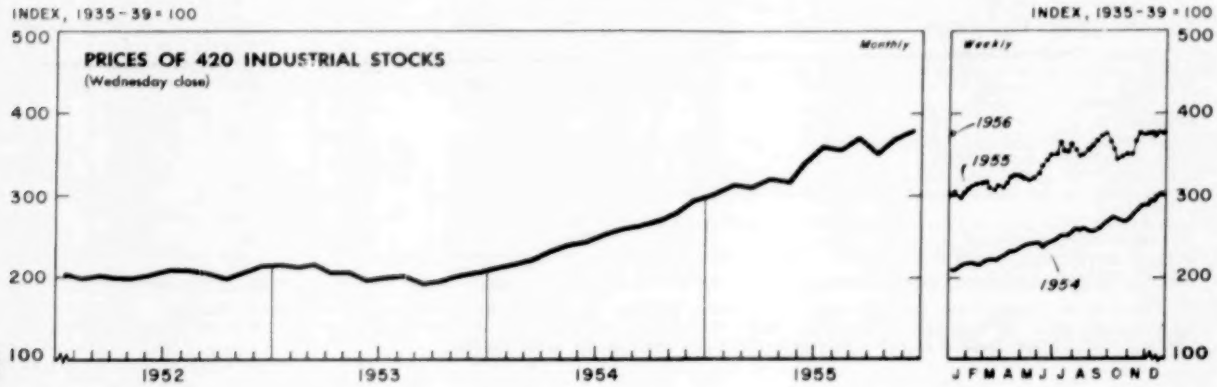
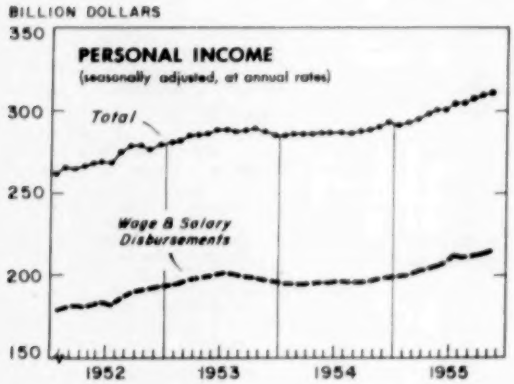
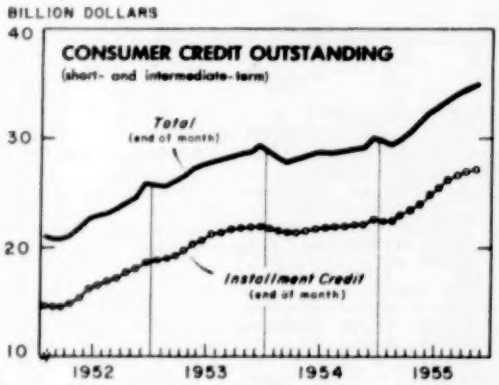
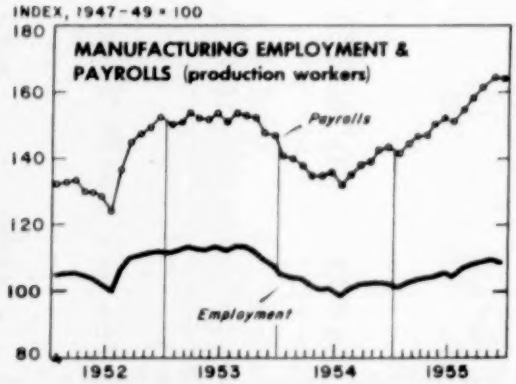
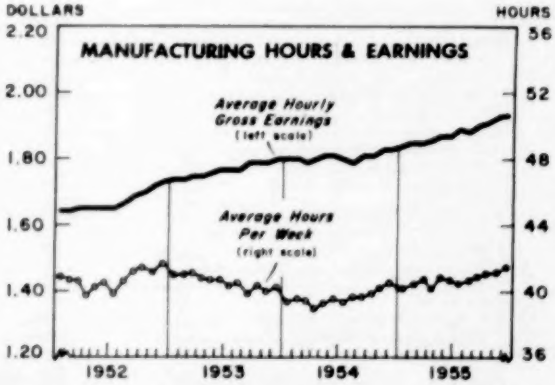
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS











WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1955					1956
	Jan. 1	Jan. 8	Dec. 17	Dec. 24	Dec. 31	Jan. 7
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*110.1	111.1	111.2	111.4	111.5
Farm products.....do....	.....	*92.5	83.3	84.5	85.2	85.5
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*103.8	98.0	97.7	97.7	98.4
All other.....do....	.....	*115.2	119.5	119.5	119.6	119.6
22 commodities 2/.....do....	90.2	90.8	89.2	89.9	89.9	90.2
Department store sales.....do....	80	106	255	231	89	.....
Insured unemployment, total 3/.....thous..	2,061	2,185	1,181	1,259	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,847	1,956	1,069	1,144	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 4/.....mil. of dol..	30,618	30,436	31,308	31,414	31,275	31,033
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 4/....do....	26,433	26,176	26,428	27,101	27,420	26,936
Member bank reserve balances 4/.....do....	19,250	19,263	18,950	19,446	19,487	19,464
Excess reserves, estimated 4/.....do....	620	683	466	686	712	601
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities: 5/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	58,445	57,857	58,558	58,739	58,865	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do....	21,407	21,446	21,615	21,636	21,649	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	86,506	85,779	85,698	86,846	86,741	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	36,902	36,573	29,559	30,260	30,122	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do....	22,423	22,254	26,317	26,627	26,701	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	7,176	7,182	8,156	8,158	8,139	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	152	198	247	181	174	.....
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 4/.....percent..	3.14	3.14	3.34	3.35	3.34	3.33
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 5/..1935-39=100..	270.6	268.6	324.9	327.9	327.5	326.7
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	304.2	301.8	374.1	378.4	377.4	376.9
Production:						
Bituminous coal 4/.....thous. of short tons..	1,486	1,418	1,763	1,846	1,820	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	9,425	9,833	11,602	11,614	10,751	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	142,384	171,279	196,422	169,984	118,727	142,398
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 4/.....thous. of bbl..	6,343	6,574	6,946	6,992	6,987	.....
Steel 6/.....thous. of short tons..	1,850	1,960	2,421	2,338	2,309	2,403
Percent of capacity 6/.....	#77.6	81.2	100.3	96.9	95.7	#97.6
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	529	602	715	672	575	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	274	309	369	342	298	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Includes UCFE program beginning January 8, 1955. 4/ Daily average. 5/ Wednesday data. 6/ Week ended January 14, 1956: Production, 2,388 thous. short tons; operating rate, 97.0 percent. * Monthly index January 1955. # Not comparable with other rates which are based on different capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1954		1955			
	November	December	September	October	November	December
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS 1/						
Personal income, by source, seasonally adj., at annual rates:						
Total personal income.....bil. of dol..	290.8	293.4	307.9	r309.2	311.4	.....
Wage and salary disbursements, total.....do....	198.6	198.8	212.4	r213.3	215.0	.....
Commodity-producing industries.....do....	85.2	84.8	92.2	r92.8	94.1	.....
Distributive industries.....do....	52.5	53.1	56.4	r56.4	56.6	.....
Service industries.....do....	26.6	26.6	28.0	r28.2	28.4	.....
Government.....do....	34.3	34.3	35.8	35.9	35.9	.....
Other labor income.....do....	6.7	6.7	7.1	7.1	7.1	.....
Proprietors' and rental income.....do....	48.3	48.9	49.7	49.8	49.9	.....
Personal interest income and dividends.....do....	24.9	26.5	27.1	r27.4	27.6	.....
Transfer payments.....do....	16.8	17.1	16.9	16.9	17.1	.....
Less personal contributions for social insurance...do....	4.5	4.6	5.3	5.3	5.3	.....
Total nonagricultural income.....do....	275.9	278.1	293.0	r294.4	296.4	.....
COMMODITY PRICES						
Prices received and paid by farmers:						
Prices received, all farm products.....1910-14=100..	242	239	235	230	225	223
Crops.....do....	243	243	229	224	224	227
Commercial vegetables, fresh market.....do....	226	221	230	223	231	231
Cotton.....do....	281	276	285	278	274	264
Feed grains and hay.....do....	199	202	174	167	164	170
Food grains.....do....	239	239	217	220	220	221
Fruit.....do....	210	218	210	188	193	207
Oil-bearing crops.....do....	277	279	225	227	228	232
Potatoes 2/.....do....	184	182	129	130	143	144
Tobacco.....do....	438	430	427	443	438	455
Livestock and products.....do....	241	236	240	236	225	219
Dairy products.....do....	266	264	257	264	267	265
Meat animals.....do....	261	253	250	240	216	201
Poultry and eggs.....do....	159	155	202	195	195	204
Wool.....do....	287	284	226	222	219	220
Prices paid:						
All commodities and services.....do....	262	261	259	261	259	259
Family living items.....do....	272	272	272	274	273	274
Production items.....do....	251	250	248	246	244	243

r/ Revised. 1/ November 1955 manufacturers' sales (adjusted) shown in the January 6th Weekly Supplement revised as follows (mil. dol.): Total, 27,318; total durable-goods, 13,720; transportation equipment, 3,510.

ITEM	1954		1955			
	November	December	September	October	November	December
COMMODITY PRICES - Continued						
Prices paid by farmers - Continued						
All commodities and services, interest, taxes, and wage rates.....1910-14=100..	279	279	279	280	279	279
Parity ratio.....do....	87	86	84	82	81	80
Retail price:						
All commodities (U.S.Dept. of Commerce index)..1935-39=100..	207.6	207.6	208.9	r208.9	208.5	.....
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
New construction (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	3,329	3,092	r4,086	r3,953	r3,617	3,177
Private, total.....do....	2,358	2,263	r2,844	r2,765	r2,632	2,410
Residential (nonfarm).....do....	1,293	1,258	r1,561	r1,508	r1,422	1,283
New dwelling units.....do....	1,175	1,150	r1,410	r1,360	r1,280	1,160
Additions and alterations.....do....	96	86	r119	r116	r110	92
Nonresidential building, total 1/.....do....	564	552	r714	r719	r717	683
Industrial.....do....	178	184	r213	r218	r225	226
Commercial.....do....	203	192	r303	r305	r296	269
Farm construction.....do....	106	93	137	r112	r94	83
Public utility.....do....	383	348	420	415	388	351
Public, total.....do....	971	829	r1,242	r1,188	985	767
Nonresidential building.....do....	366	351	r372	r353	r318	287
Military facilities.....do....	95	88	r133	134	r115	106
Highway.....do....	320	214	510	r485	r355	200
New construction (seasonally adjusted), total.....do....	3,254	3,429	r3,573	r3,526	r3,518	3,489
Private, total.....do....	2,269	2,350	r2,599	r2,551	r2,517	2,486
Residential (nonfarm).....do....	1,229	1,307	r1,422	r1,374	r1,345	1,326
Nonresidential building, total 1/.....do....	537	539	r679	r683	680	669
Farm construction.....do....	125	124	114	r112	r111	110
Public utility.....do....	365	366	372	371	370	369
Public, total.....do....	985	1,079	r974	r975	r1,001	1,003
Nonresidential building.....do....	384	393	338	r329	r334	322
Highway.....do....	320	393	r327	r332	r357	367
Construction cost index:						
Department of Commerce composite.....1947-49=100..	122.4	122.5	126.5	r12 .7	126.8	.....
DOMESTIC TRADE						
All retail stores:						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total 2/.....mil. of dol..	14,531	17,872	15,905	15,824	r15,894	19,401
Durable-goods stores:						
Automotive group.....do....	2,478	2,824	3,367	2,964	r3,039	3,224
Furniture and appliance group.....do....	836	1,025	822	909	r927	1,128
Nondurable-goods stores:						
Apparel group.....do....	920	1,448	910	974	r988	1,600
Drug and proprietary stores.....do....	398	530	425	437	r432	591
Eating and drinking places.....do....	1,067	1,113	1,220	1,204	r1,126	1,177
Food group.....do....	3,452	3,920	3,766	3,705	r3,648	4,212
Gasoline service stations.....do....	994	1,008	1,049	1,083	r1,085	1,098
General-merchandise group.....do....	1,821	2,850	1,674	1,807	r1,956	3,035
Estimated inventories (adjusted), total.....do....	22,080	22,090	23,230	r23,290	23,530	.....
Durable-goods stores.....do....	10,030	10,060	10,720	r10,720	10,990	.....
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	12,050	12,030	12,510	r12,570	12,540	.....
Department store sales, United States total:						
Unadjusted index.....1947-49=100..	137	201	123	128	r148	p209
Adjusted index.....do....	113	116	121	122	r122	p121
Wholesale trade:						
Sales, estimated (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	9,630	9,600	10,730	r10,650	10,890	.....
Durable-goods establishments.....do....	3,020	3,010	3,640	3,590	3,530	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do....	6,610	6,590	7,090	r7,060	7,360	.....
Inventories, estimated (unadjusted), total.....do....	11,920	11,560	12,180	r12,600	12,620	.....
Durable-goods establishments.....do....	5,610	5,460	6,000	6,060	6,070	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do....	6,310	6,100	6,180	r6,540	6,550	.....
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES						
Labor force (Bureau of the Census):						
Civilian labor force.....thousands..	64,624	63,526	66,882	67,292	67,206	66,592
Employed.....do....	61,732	60,688	64,733	65,161	64,807	64,165
Agricultural employment.....do....	6,154	5,325	7,875	7,905	6,920	5,884
Nonagricultural employment.....do....	55,577	55,363	56,858	57,256	57,887	58,281
Unemployed.....do....	2,893	2,838	2,149	2,131	2,398	2,427
Employees in nonagricultural establishments:						
Total, unadjusted (U. S. Dept. of Labor).....thousands..	48,808	49,463	50,322	r50,471	r50,640	p51,169
Manufacturing.....do....	16,057	16,050	16,915	r16,999	r17,075	p16,984
Mining.....do....	749	747	758	r751	r754	p753
Contract construction.....do....	2,598	2,426	2,748	r2,685	r2,569	p2,396
Transportation and public utilities.....do....	3,986	3,996	4,152	r4,127	r4,145	p4,141
Wholesale and retail trade.....do....	10,745	11,354	10,824	r10,909	r11,116	p11,674
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....do....	2,134	2,136	2,223	r2,216	r2,216	p2,225
Service and miscellaneous.....do....	5,622	5,588	5,791	r5,730	r5,691	p5,653
Government.....do....	6,917	7,166	6,911	7,054	r7,074	p7,343
Production workers in manufacturing industries:						
Total.....do....	12,657	12,645	13,373	r13,446	r13,527	p13,421
Durable-goods industries.....do....	7,198	7,218	7,623	r7,729	r7,867	p7,841
Ordnance and accessories.....do....	98	97	87	84	r84	p84
Lumber and wood products (except furniture).....do....	685	661	726	716	r699	p674
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	301	297	320	323	323	p321
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	438	437	479	r478	478	p466

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Except farm and public utility. 2/ December 1955 figures are advance estimates.

ITEM	1954		1955			
	November	December	September	October	November	December
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES - Continued						
Production workers in manufacturing industries - Continued						
Durable goods industries - Continued						
Primary metal industries.....thousands..	988	1,002	1,134	r1,135	r1,152	p1,156
Fabricated metal products 1/.....do....	844	843	894	r904	r911	p907
Machinery (except electrical).....do....	1,092	1,106	1,149	r1,194	r1,214	p1,228
Electrical machinery.....do....	811	809	855	r885	r872	p874
Transportation equipment.....do....	1,334	1,375	1,357	r1,378	r1,503	p1,510
Instruments and related products.....do....	218	218	223	r225	r226	p226
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	5,459	5,427	5,750	r5,717	r5,660	p5,580
Food and kindred products.....do....	1,111	1,062	1,245	r1,191	r1,127	p1,049
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	103	100	114	113	r101	p92
Textile-mill products.....do....	983	983	989	991	998	p999
Apparel and other finished textile products.....do....	1,060	1,073	1,115	1,123	r1,138	p1,137
Paper and allied products.....do....	444	442	462	r464	r465	p464
Printing, publishing, and allied products.....do....	518	519	530	r535	539	p535
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	533	534	553	557	558	p557
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	173	172	174	172	r170	p168
Rubber products.....do....	202	207	223	226	231	p233
Leather and leather products.....do....	332	335	346	r344	r333	p347
Manufacturing production-worker indexes:						
Employment: Unadjusted.....1947-49=100..	102.3	102.2	108.1	108.7	109.4	p108.5
Adjusted.....do....	101.6	101.7	106.4	107.3	r108.7	p107.9
Payrolls, unadjusted.....do....	142.2	143.1	158.7	r161.2	r164.3	p163.8
Hours and earnings:						
Average weekly hours per worker, all manufacturing.hours..	40.2	40.5	40.9	41.1	41.2	p41.4
Durable-goods industries.....do....	40.8	41.1	41.4	41.7	r41.9	p42.0
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	39.5	39.8	40.1	40.3	r40.3	p40.7
Average weekly earnings, all manufacturing.....dollars..	73.57	74.12	77.71	78.50	79.52	p79.90
Durable-goods industries.....do....	79.15	80.15	84.46	85.07	r86.31	p86.52
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	65.97	66.47	68.97	69.32	r70.12	p71.23
Average hourly earnings, all manufacturing.....do....	1.83	1.83	1.90	1.91	1.93	p1.93
Durable-goods industries.....do....	1.94	1.95	2.04	2.04	r2.06	p2.06
Ordnance and accessories.....do....	2.01	2.02	2.08	2.08	r2.10	p2.09
Lumber and wood products (except furniture).....do....	1.67	1.64	1.73	r1.73	1.69	p1.66
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	1.58	1.59	1.64	1.65	r1.64	p1.65
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	1.81	1.80	1.89	1.88	r1.90	p1.88
Primary metal industries.....do....	2.14	2.14	2.33	2.31	r2.31	p2.32
Fabricated metal products 1/.....do....	1.93	1.94	2.01	r2.03	r2.02	p2.03
Machinery (except electrical).....do....	2.03	2.04	2.11	2.13	r2.14	p2.16
Electrical machinery.....do....	1.84	1.84	1.89	r1.91	r1.91	p1.92
Transportation equipment.....do....	2.18	2.19	2.26	r2.27	r2.31	p2.29
Instruments and related products.....do....	1.85	1.86	1.93	1.94	r1.94	p1.95
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	1.67	1.67	1.72	1.72	1.74	p1.75
Food and kindred products.....do....	1.70	1.71	1.75	1.77	r1.80	p1.82
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	1.29	1.30	1.25	1.25	r1.34	p1.36
Textile-mill products.....do....	1.37	1.37	1.40	1.41	1.42	p1.42
Apparel and other finished textile products.....do....	1.34	1.35	1.36	1.36	1.36	p1.37
Paper and allied products.....do....	1.78	1.78	1.86	1.87	r1.87	p1.87
Printing, publishing, and allied industries.....do....	2.30	2.31	2.37	2.37	2.36	p2.39
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	1.93	1.93	2.03	2.01	2.04	p2.05
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	2.29	2.28	2.43	2.40	r2.42	p2.42
Rubber products.....do....	2.02	2.03	2.09	2.12	r2.17	p2.15
Leather and leather products.....do....	1.39	1.38	1.41	1.42	r1.45	p1.44

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

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